

Regulatory planning for NTC, Thailand

Sector structure and regulation

We were asked by National Telecommunications Commission in Thailand to be its prime adviser during its initiative to create a free and fair regulatory environment. We developed the strategic plan, established a road map for its implementation and provided a series of training workshops. We also prepared specific policy guidelines on competition, bilateral trading agreements and universal service obligations.

We undertook a detailed review of the local telecoms market, including many demand related issues. We evaluated the telecoms sector structure, particularly government ownership of the sector, the degree of competition in the sector, contractual relationships between the players and the financial performance of major players.

The assessment of the financial performance of the major operators allowed us to quantify the impact on costs and revenues arising from differences in the application of regulation, from market structure issues, from prevailing levels of efficiency and from the USO. We completed a regional and peer group pricing study and, when combined with the financial performance assessment, developed conclusions about the market efficiency, cash flows between players, financial interaction with government, and market sustainability.

USO master plan and policy guidelines

Intercai Mondiale developed a master plan and policy guidelines associated with the continued provision of a USO in Thailand. Thailand is characterised by extensive areas of the country which is difficult to reach with power and telecommunications facilities. Reaching into these areas is costly, and creates a large burden on the providers of telecommunications services. Nevertheless, the intention of government is that people living in these areas should have access to telecommunications so that they can participate in the economy and society. The master plan and policy guidelines focused on the following:

- Definition of the universal service and other services for the public good
- Available technologies and their use
- Which types of operator should provide services
- Who should pay for the provision of the universal service
- Allocation of funds to particular projects
- Principles for costing the USO
- A programme of work to realise policy objectives

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